

SIZE OF ADULT HOOKWORM.—The adult hookworm varies in size from one-third to two-thirds of an inch in length (see Figs. 1 and 2), and is about the thickness of a small hairpin or a No. 30 thread.

COLOR.—It is white, as a rule, but will often appear of a dark, brownish color, due to blood taken into its system.

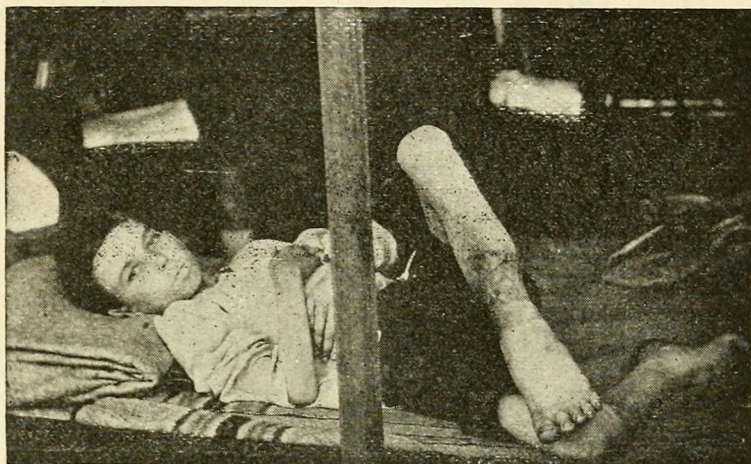


FIGURE 7. Selma Ellis, of Columbus county. Photograph made at county dispensary. Age 16, weight 62½ pounds; anemic ulcer on leg; ill 8 years. He was unable to go to school or work; in fact he was unable to sit or stand.

REASON FOR THE NAME.—The name hookworm may have originated from the appearance of the worm. Its head bends back on its neck like a hook; the teeth of the Old World hookworm closely suggest hooks; and, in the male, the rays or ribs in the fan-shaped tail resemble hooks. Hence, there are three excuses offered for the name.

PECULIAR STRUCTURE OF WORM.—The mouth is cup-shaped (Fig. 8). There is a prominent dorso-medial tooth and two ventro-lateral curved plates just within the outer margin of the mouth. These enable the worm to attach and hold himself to the intestinal lining. Laterally placed, two on each side of the mouth, are lancets which pierce the flesh, making openings through which the blood can escape. Into the bite the worm injects a poisonous secretion from a gland in the worm's head. Besides its poisonous action to the person infected, the poison keeps the blood from clotting. In the female the generative organs are anteriorly situated and posteriorly in the male. Eggs are deposited in immense numbers by the worms and pass out of the intestine with the excreta.

The *harmful effects resulting*, then, from the presence of *the worm* in the bowel may be numbered as follows:

First. The loss of blood ingested by the worm and the more important loss occurring by the oozing for hours of blood from wounds left by the worm.

Second. The secretion injected by the worm is poisonous.